Noiseless Owis Among Their Worst Enemies -Winter Tragedies Under the Snow - The Ruffed Grouse's Skill at Eluding Human Foes - A Trick it Plays on Dogs and Men. FERRYVILLE, Wis. Dec. 2s - The Game increase the numbers of every variety of game native to the State. In no species s the increase more marked than in the ruffed grouse, sometimes mistakenly called partridge, and universally named phe sant through the North and middle West. The law is some years old. When enacted it was feared that the grouse had been driven permanently from the more settled parts of the State Except in the most rugged and densely wooded country it was difficult to find one. Now the birds are plentiful wherever there are trees and stones and an occasional cornfield Shooting during the past autumn has been excellent. Bags of a dozen have been made often in a morning, and one Ferryville man holds a record of

twenty-three ruffed grouse killed between

The bird has many enemies. Foxes, raccoons, skunks and wildcats all pursue it and they are markedly successful while the broods are young. When the birds have attained full growth they do not often fall victims to four-footed foes. They are exce-dingly wary and in the daytime are not to be caught napping, no matter how soft the approach. At night they go to roost

requisite. If he presses hotly on the scent he will generally force the birds to lie inside of fifty yards from the spot where they are feeding. The dog should be white in color, or at least liver and white or lemon and white, for the reason that in the woods a dark colored dog is not readily visible, and he may be upon a stanch point thirty yards away and his master be never the wiser. It should be a dog taught to quarter his ground thor-Protective law of Wisconsin has belied to from his companion. In this way, and in oughly and never more than a hundred yards this way only, a bit of woods may be well worked. It will make no difference whether this dog has been instructed to flush the birds himself or permit the man with the gun to do the flushing, because the ruffed grouse will flush of their own volition when the man comes up behind the dog, and generally from ten to fifteen yards away.

It is a frequent trick of this bird for two members of the covey to flush and dart away through the trees, generally in opposite directions. The others rise when the guns have gone off. In knowledge of this fact some old stagers make handsome bags by magnanimously permitting their less experienced friends always to have the first shot. It is not wise to believe that all of the grouse have arisen until the men have gone in front of the dog. Often some sly cock will lie hidden for a minute after his companions have left. So lying he will get up almost between the legs of the advancing gun men, and unless a cartridge has been

saved will roar away unscathed. Another exasperating peculiarity of the grouse is its habit of treeing when it thinks that treeing will be a good thing. The pointer

HOMES OF LOST ISLANDERS.

blast had riled the sand dunes all about, but stread no kindly drift over this "rough sketch of man." All around are the casts of roots of trees in the shitting sand, ranging all the way in size from course fibre to several inches in diameter. These semi-petrifica-BY EXPLORERS.

Interesting Questions as to the Archipelago of the California Coast - The Countiess Ekulls and One Live Woman of St. Nicholas.

From the Chicago Record. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28 - An expedition of scientific students has been made up in Los Angeles and Pasadena to explore theroughly the channel islands off that part of the coast of California known as Santa Earbara and San Buenaventura countries during the next six months. The party is to be sustained by Stanford University largely and to a less extent by several denominational colleges in southern California Anthropological and archaeological students, who have spent several weeks each on these islands, say they are one of the very richest fields for work in that department of knowledge on the Pacific Coast. The channel islands constitute California's only archipelago, with the possible exception of the rocky and scarty Farallone Islands. They have been objects of romance, legends, curiesity and my stery for a generation.

Notwithstanding all the islands are within eighty-two miles of California's shore, they are solitary and unfrequented, and years roll by with visits to them of less than fifty people annually. Each island has its own particular strange, uncanny traditions of the tribes of red men, and each has the countless traces of an occupation by thousands and thousands of Indians. When Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the Portuguese navigator, sailed up the coast

of roots of trees in the shitting sand, ranging all the way in size from course fibre to several inches in diameter. These semi-petrifications are intact, the wind having swent them clean of the loose earth. They yield a metallic ring when tapped with a rock or shell. A still more remarkable feature of this desert is a stone forest, the broken columns composed of pindurate sand.

At the extreme west end of the ish n is a colossal precipice 1,000 feet in height, its chasmed and slitted face softened by a luxuriant growth of emerald moss and lichens.

The most grewsome of all sights on this strange island is to be seen on the broad plateau south of the Chinese camp at Coral harbor. Here acres of the naked sand are littered with hundreds of disjointed skeletons and present the most reckless illustration of the "ground plan" of humanity that imagination can ricture. Measurements have been made by several scientists of the thigh, leg and arm bones, and literally bushels of skulls and other parts of the human frame have been brought to Los Angeles from St Nicholas Island for investigation. The general opinion is that the Indian ruce that swarmed over the island was much larger than any civilized race of to-day and that some of the men must have been 7 feet 5 inches tall. The skulls of this extinct tribe often measure several inches more than some of other large skulls of to-day Many skulls found lying about on the island show that their possessors must have suffered death from a club or blunt battle axe. No one has ever yet found a skull on St. Nicholas that shows marks of a builtet. There are many collar bones and shoulder blades broken and crushed, so that it is evident their owner was killed by some instrument, as a war club or a boulder. Scientists say that the favorite wear on in warfare with the Aleutians came down and countletely destroyed the people on the Channel Islands.

A GREAT GAME PRESERVE.

RODS OUT FOR SWORDFISH. TERY LIVELY ANGLING TRIED BY

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN. Discovery That the Swordfish Will Take Batt Followed by Attempts to Catch One Chance That the Swordish May Rom the Bea - The Ewordfish's Fercetty.

SANTA CATALINA, Cul., Dec. 25.-The Sierra Madres are capped with snow, and seen from this island, sixty miles away, the white domes stand out in remarkable contrast against the vivid blue of the sky. The sea is smooth save where the swordfish leaps and falls heavily, creating a ripple. The fact that many swordilsh are in these waters now has occasioned interest among the anglers, especially as some of them have been trying to take one of these swordsmen of the sea with the rod, an unheard of proceeding. What has caused so unusual a run of these fish is not known, but they are here in large numbers, and that they will strike or bite was discovered some time ago. A fisherman had a strike, and like a flash of lightning something shot around the boat, making the line hiss, then plunged down deep into the channel, to come up again and leap into the air like an arrow, quivering in the sunlight for a moment, then falling. "A swordfish!" shouted the boatman.

'Cut the line!" "Not on your life," retorted the angler. Stand by your oars and keep the stern of the boat to the fish.'

The man obeyed, but it was evident that he fully expected to be run down by the fish. | ginning and kept them throughout the play

CARDS INVISIBLY MARKED.

That Is, Invisibly to the Other Fellows Who Were in the Game With Him.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat. A prominent turfman here, attending the winter race meet, told a good story the other evening of an adventure on a Cunarder You never heard of invisible ink?" he said. "Well, neither had I up to a dozen years ago, and my introduction to it was rather peculiar. At that time I was considerably greener in the ways of the wicked world than I am at present, and coming across on the Etruria, after a season in London, I was room of the ship. The vulnerable point might be, as long as I found their society men from Boston. The other was a small, said he was a lace buyer for a firm of importers in New York.

"We began playing on the second day out were giving the game pretty nearly our exclusive attention The table we used was in the far corner of the smosing room and had four stationary chairs. As is customary aboard ship, we selected our seats at the be-

SOME GIANT ICE BREAKERS.

BOATS THAT NO ORDINARY FIELD OF ICE CAN STOP.

Their Bows Are Forced on Top of the Barrier by Powerful Engines, and Their Weight Crushes It Steaming Through Mixed Ice Twenty-five Feet Thick -An American Idea. From the Chicago Tribune.

At this season of the year there is put in commission the most remarkable fleet of vessels in the world, for now on the great lakes in America, in the Baltic Sea, and on fool enough to sit in a four-handed poker Lake Baikal, in Siberia, the great ice breakers game with three fellows I met in the smoking | begin their annual winter battle to keep open paths of commerce through the frozen about any greenhorn who plays rober is seas. The thorough test which will be made his proud conviction that he can protect him- of the ice crusher in Lake Baikal is of unself against any kind of 'work' That was usual importance. Half way across Siberia, my own opinion, and consequently I didn't right in the path of the transsiberian rail-care a copper who my three acquaintances way, lies the lake which has presented so many problems to the Russian engineers. entertaining. Two of them, I may as well To build the railway around the lower end say right here, were plain, everyday business of the lake would necessitate a detour of 150 miles through such a difficult country that dark, smooth-shaven chap who introduced the cost would be enormous. So, temporarily himself by the name of Cummings and at least, the Russians decided upon a ferry across the lake. But the lake freezes up in December and remains frozen until the end of April, so no ordinary ferryboat would do of Liverpool, and inside of twenty-four hours | for winter traffic. It was first proposed to lay rails across the ice for the winter traffe, but, taking a leaf from the experience of the Americans on the Great Lakes, and availing themselves of the ideas in shipbuilding which have proved so successful in ice fighting on our great inland seas, it was finally decided